The Logger's Bark

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

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The month of May has been helter skelter so I am running late getting the Bark put together. Things seem to get busier in the spring - I spend more time mowing grass at my QTH and at the Clubhouse. Lots of planning meetings to attend putting together various upcoming events, plus processing incoming donations to the club. Honest– my nose has been to the grindstone, and my apologies for being tardy with the newsletter.

The big news is that in about a month W7DK will be going back to the field for Field Day. See the writeup on page 6 for a bit more info, and stay tuned to the nets and watch your email. And always remember to check the Club website w7dk.org for the latest news.

The club has received several nice donations lately and there will most likely soon be additional radios showing up inside the clubhouse HF Room and Lou Rooms. Some of the donors wish to remain nameless, so I will just say to all THANK YOU on behalf of the club for your generosity.

And a personal Thank You from your humble editor to Bob K7MXE for scoring a riding lawnmower for RCT. And for hauling it from the middle of Montana to Tacoma.

Another thing I have noticed around the Clubhouse lately are lots of new faces sitting in the operator's chairs. What a great sight. Skills are being developed that are going to benefit the club in the near future, and in many years to come. Kudos to those club members who spend time mentoring our newer members.

And we also have a couple fresh faces helping out with Saturday Open House hosting duties. Val K7VAP has taken the duties for 3rd Saturdays, and Bob KE7WPK will be opening the doors and making the coffee on the 4th Saturdays in months that have 5 Saturdays. Thanks Guys!

And last but not least, our esteemed Treasurer David W7HTJ has been overwhelmed with work commitments and has submitted his resignation from that office. Mike W7XTZ is acting as treasurer until a replacement can be named. A heartfelt THANK YOU to David for his diligent and valuable contributions. We hope you can return soon.

OK nuffernow. See you on the air or at the Clubhouse.
73 Mike W7MWF

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Board of Directors Meeting

1 April , 2015 Minutes

The Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma.

Officers and board members present:

President	Gary McAdams WG7X
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Treasurer	David Andresen W7HTJ
Board Member	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board Member	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Board Member	Al Ferguson N7OMS
Board Member	Nick Winter K7MO

There were 16 names on the attendance roster a copy of which is attached to the original minutes

Quorum: Yes

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by President Gary McAdams WG7X.

President Gary advised the Board that business commitments will keep him out of town most of May and June.

Minutes:

The minutes of the March 2015 Board Meeting as distributed and coordinated, were approved without objection or correction.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: Joseph A Worrall KL7T joined us last April and became a Silent Key in July 2014

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Bank Statements
Utility and Phone Bills
Newsletters
Memberships
Contest Journal
Electric Radio
QSL Cards

W7DK

Proudly celebrating 99 years of Amateur Radio Service to Pierce County and the Pacific Northwest

TREASURER'S REPORT: David W7HTJ

- David presented and reviewed the Treasurer's Monthly Summary for 28 February to 31 March
- David's business commitments have made it impossible for him to continue as the Club's Treasurer, and he submitted his resignation effective May 15th 2015.
- Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ has offered to temporarily handle the Treasurer's duties until a replacement can be found.

A copy of the financial report is attached to the original copy of these minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership:

George reported the current membership dropped from 369 to an active number of 278 primarily due to failure to renew memberships.

Training: The March Technician's class was canceled due to insufficient sign ups. The next Technician's Class April 11/12

Information Technology: – Randy Myers WB4SBP

Randy provided an IT summary update which included:

- Clubhouse IT system is normal with no issues
- A laptop case donation from K7GRS has been received.
- Rich KR7W is currently using the laptop.
- There was a discussion of a member's formal request to permit the connection of the club's 147.28 repeater IRLP to Node 9198.

Here's the Wiki description.

https://www.google.com/search?q=LT+Spice&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-

Museum: **Rich KR7W** No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RCT Centennial Planning

Centennial RCT Calendar: Al N7OMS: announced that he and Pat Wingerter WT7N are planning to put together an RCT Centennial Calendar with 13 selected photos, and operating and other 2016 Centennial and RCT Events. The Calendars to be a fund raiser by selling them for individual use and gifts.

Al and Pat are soliciting calendar entries

Centennial Operations: After discussion it was agreed that the Club will use W7DK/with an appropriate suffix e.g. "C", or "100" as a special call.

Centennial Promotion: One or more articles for QST are planned for development to promote our celebration

KD4VOM Larry: Will take whatever materials are available to SEAPAC in June.

Social Media: Efforts are underway to revive the RCT Facebook page, add a Twitter account and Centennial email address; e.g. W7DK100@XXX

Centennial Banquet: Larry KD4VOM advised the Board that Dave W7UUU and Anne N7ANN have agreed to manage the Centennial Banquet, which will likely be a pot luck at TACID in October of 2016

NEW BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

W7MWF Mike: The March BARK is posted

The meeting was adjourned at 20:45

General Memebership Meeting
8 April 2015 Meeting Notes

The General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building at Waller Road and 112th Street. .

President Gary WG7X called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President	Gary McAdams WG7X
Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Board	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Board	Nick Winter K7MO

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 39 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by Gary WG7X

INTRODUCTIONS: Welcoming of guests and self-introductions were completed. There were several first time visitors and newly minted/upgraded hams attending.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: Joseph A Worrall KL7T joined our group last April and became a Silent Key in July last year..

Correspondence:

Newsletters	Membership Renewals
Utility Bills	Newsletters & Journals
Bank Statements	QEX, NCJ, Electric Radio

The Field Day Pig and Question box were circulated to collect donations for Field Day operations and member requests and ideas.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: George K7GRS provided a membership of 277 following the end of the grace period lapsed the end of March.

Training: Next Technicians Class April 11/12

An announcement was made of an upcoming General Class to be conducted in Gig Harbor beginning on 14 April at the LDS Church, 12002 Peacock Hill

HF Station: Operational

- Following the discussion where concerns were raised relativly to a user's possible failure to disconnect the IRLP, leaving the repeater temporarily unusable for others. It was decided that if such a problem arises, the node use could be terminated.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to permit the member's use of the IRLP with the 9198 node.

HF Operations: Operational

Repeaters: Tim White K7TMW

There was a discussion of the ARES Digital Net use of the Crawford Mountain 147.38 repeater. It was decided that it presented no problem, and provided needed usage of the repeater.

Repeater Status:

W7DK 145.21 Repeater, Bates Channel 28: -- Operational

W7DK 147.28 Repeater Clubhouse: Status –- Operational

W7DK 147.38 Repeater Crawford Mountain: Status – Operational, *awaiting installation of the 440 MHz control unit*

W7DK 440.625 Repeater Clubhouse Status – Operational

IRLP 147.28 Repeater) Operational

Facilities Management:

HF Station facility work: Al Ferguson N7OMS

Al proposed that the club authorize a previously discussed upgrade of the HF station to expand to three stations, add can lighting and other related upgrades.

There was a motion made, seconded and passed to authorize the upgrades proposed by Al N7OMS the expenditure of up to $ 500.00 for this project.

Property Management: Mike W7MWF

- Recapped Property Management sales of surplus equipment at the March 7 Mike and Key Hamfest. It was noted that the Club netted $1319.50 after expenses for tables and vendor passes.
- Reported the donation of Joseph Worrall KL7T's ham gear by his wife, much of which is in very good condition.
- Reported the recommendation that the Property Management Team be authorized to suitably dispose of the tower donated by K7MO.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to authorize the PMT to dispose of the tower in the best manner possible.

General Membership Meeting Program for 11 March; Dave W7UUU

Rich KR7W will be presenting the Summits On The Air (SOTA) history, operations and techniques.

Workshop Project:

28 March: Bob Bosnyak AD7WU will present an overview of LT Spice, free computer circuit simulation software, by

Attendees are encouraged to download the free program, and experiment with it to make better use of the Workshop

Repeaters: All Operational

Facilities: The Board has approved funding for an upgrade to the HF Station which will update lighting, and expand two additional stations.

Property Management: Mike Finnie W7MWF

Mike reported on the donation of SK Joseph Worrall KL7T's station gear by his wife. We have received several other donations including some test gear from Bruce WB7EC.

Workshops:

The **22 April Workshop** topic will be an overview of LT Spice, a free computer circuit simulation software program, presented by Bob Bosnyak AD7WU. Attendees are encouraged to download and experiment with the program to make better use of the Workshop.

PROGRAM: The Summits On The Air (SOTA) Program – Rich Patrick KR7W

Rich provided a description of the SOTA program, including online links for those interested in participating either as Activators or Chasers. A wealth of information on the organizational structure, what constitutes a summit, and the basic rules of participating and gaining point credits..

Several photos and videos were presented of recent SOTA activities by active Club members were shown. Rich made it clear that you do not have to be a mountaineer to participate either in the Activating or Chaser segments of the project.

Virtually all of the key links to SOTA information have been posted to the W7DK.org website by webmaster Joe K7ZG

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

RCT Centennial Celebration: Planning is getting underway, all are invited to participate in the planning for our 100 year anniversary, See any Board member.

Several projects are underway, including the Banquet evening, and a proposed combination calendar/fund raiser.

March Logger's Bark: has been posted to the W7DK.org website

DISCUSSION TOPICS: None

TUNING AND TRAFFIC: None Reported

SHOW AND TELL:

Rich Patrick KR7W presented a short video of a recent revival of an old **Heathkit HW7** restored and upgraded to operating condition.

Linda AB7YL brought in a broad array of SOTA gear, antennas, power supplies, and the gear she takes on her many SOTA excursions

DOOR PRIZES: Ollie AD7CC and Mike KG7NNR both took home door prizes from this evening's drawings.

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

In connection with the Club's Centennial Celebration, David W7HTJ, Doug AD7AV and Mike W7XTZ are busy compiling a presentation to showcase the Club's history and activities over the years.

If you have any pictures of people, places, events, or equipment, please get ahold of one of them.

Their contact info is listed in the Club Directory, and they would be grateful for interesting and enlightening submissions to review and build their show.

Radio Club of Tacoma's 2015 ARRL Field Day

The Radio Club of Tacoma will be operating in the field at Western State Hospital. We'll most likely be 6A Club using the W7DK call. According to co-chairs Al N7OMS and Randy WB4SPB, this event will be about both fun and competition. Field day is on the 27th and 28th of June, with setup beginning the day before, or maybe a bit earlier.

We're welcoming back Bill AD7QI who will be managing the 10 meter, 6 meter and UHF/VHF stations, all relying on 100% solar power. Nick K7MO will be spearheading the 80 meter/15 meter station with a crew operating out of the back of a cargo trailer. The two Mikes, W7XTZ and W7MWF will be hosting the 20 meter setup as they did the last time we were at the Steilacoom site – be sure to stop in for a turn at the microphone and a cup of coffee. Joe K7ZG will be the overseer of the 20 meter CW station, and you can bet Randy and other ops will be spending lots of time there pounding the brass. Richard KR7W will be in charge of the 40 meter setup, most likely sharing a shelter with the 20 CW crew. Steve Blacksten AD7VL will be bringing out a GOTA station courtesy of a sister club.

Chefs Paul W7PFU and Jan K7HTU will be serving up hot chow at the Dining Facility. And John AC7WW and Connie his YL will hopefully be acting as the reception and information team.

Keep in mind that just because you are not managing a station doesn't mean that you are excluded from getting on the air. Most stations will always welcome you to take a seat and a turn at the transmitter – in fact, it is often a welcome relief to have someone else warm the seat for a while.

Lots of other tasks occur before, during, and after the event. Loading and setup, erection of tents and antennas, stringing wire, putting up signage are just a few of them. During the event there are always chores to be done – the kitchen staff can use help setting up tables and chairs and cleaning up after a meal. And on Sunday, at the official close of the event, all the gear has to be taken down, packed up, and hauled back to the clubhouse. We all hope we can count on each of you to make this a spectacular event.

Stay tuned, watch your email inbox, check the club website w7dk.org, and come to meetings and workshops to get the latest news and updates. Let's work together to have a safe and fun field day 2015 – Back in the Field!

A few phots from Field Day 2012
Western State Hospital

What Would You Do?
Guest Column
By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

For the past three or four years, I've been threatening to buy a new radio to replace my ICOM IC-746PRO. The IC-746PRO is a great rig, though, and I've had trouble pulling the trigger on a $3k – $5k or more purchase. The radio that I've had my eye on is the Elecraft K3. Without a doubt the K3 is a better rig than the 746PRO, and it's certainly worth the price that Elecraft is asking. The question I keep asking myself, though, is, "Am I going to have $5,000 more fun with a K3?"

To put it another way, the question is, assuming that I have a $5,000 budget to spend on amateur radio gear over the next year or two or three, what's the best way to spend it? How can I maximize my purchases so that I have the most fun?

At this point, I think that I've decided not to buy that new rig and instead buy equipment that will help me make my own rigs. Some of the items that I have my eye on include:

* Aoyue 968A+ SMD Digital Hot Air Rework Station (I have actually already purchased this unit.)
* Rigol DS1102E 100MHz, Dual Channel, 1 GSa/s Digital Oscilloscope
* Rigol DSA815-TG Spectrum Analyzer
* A more professional workbench to replace the folding table that I'm currently using.
* Peaberry SDR V2 Kit
* More keys! I'd love to get a fancy Begali or N3ZN paddle, and the other day someone told me about the UR5CDX keys, which look like great deals.

Even if I purchased everything on this list, I'll have spent less than $5,000.

One consequence of going this route is that I'll have less time for operating. I'm betting (hoping?) that the extra time spent on tinkering will be just as much fun, or even more fun than I'm having now.

It also means that I'll be going to Dayton with a much different mindset than I have the past couple of years. Instead of spending my time configuring the perfect K3 in my head, I'll be looking for kits and scouring the flea market looking for parts.

I may be overthinking this, but like most amateurs, I have a limited budget to spend on amateur radio. That being the case, making conscious decisions about how to spend that money should help me have more fun with ham radio, and that's the goal, isn't it?

What do you think? Is this the right way to go, or am I going to regret this decision? If you've made a similar decision, I'd love to hear from you.

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When not making crucial decisions about his amateur radio career, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, teaching one-day Tech classes, or blogging about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com.

QSL Cards via Email

Recently I received 2 beautiful cards from hams in Japan. They didn't arrive via the US Mail, but instead were sent as email attachments. Certainly a savings on postage and printing, and just as nice when printed and tacked on your wall or put into a scrapbook.

Operator's Wallpaper

If you have any special, or cool, or unique, or simply beautiful QSL cards in your collection that you'd like to share, please scan (high resolution is preferred) and email to the Bark Editor w7dk-news@earthlink.net. If you can't get them scanned, bring them along to the clubhouse on a Saturday , we'll scan them real quick and give them back to you.

The Radio Club of Tacoma's Logger's Bark

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Club Officers

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Vice Pres: Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ email to w7xtz @ w7dk.org
Secretary: Larry Watson KD4VOM email to kd4vom @ w7dk.org
Treasurer: Vacant. Mike W7XTZ Acting Treasurer w7xtz@w7dk.org

5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

Al Ferguson N7OMS email to n7oms @ w7dk.org
Nick Winter K7MO email to k7mo @ w7dk.org
Bruce Hanson WE7P email to we7p @ w7dk.org
Mike Elwell W7GHW email to w7ghw@w7dk.org
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The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org.

Permission is granted to use any or all portions of articles published in The Loggers Bark. If a credit line is included in the article, please seek permission from the original writer also.

Membership Info: **FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is $35 per calendar year. $30 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $20 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $20 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.**

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5
Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5
Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5
North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3

Remember - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website w7dk.org. Be sure to enroll as a member to see all the info.

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

Upcoming RCT Events

REGULAR EVENTS

Club Meetings: Second Wednesday of the month at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Workshops: Fourth Wednesday of the month at the Clubhouse, 1249 So. Washington St, Tacoma. A variety of training and educational events will be conducted.

Board Meeting: First Wednesday of the month at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .

SPECIAL EVENTS

ARRL Field Day W7DK will head for the field on the last full weekend of June, 2015

End of Grace Period for Dues Renewal March 31, 2015